

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14050 241133Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1494 NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14050

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DAVID KORN AND AMBASSADOR GODLEY

E.O. SGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY LEBANESE SECURITY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
RE INSPECTION PRESIDENT FRANJIE'S LUGGAGE.

REFERENCE STATE'S 259282

1. MUCH APPRECIATE PROMPT REPLY. NEITHER WE NOR DEA
KNOW PRECISELY WHY SAADI WANTS ORIGIN OF REPORT EXCEPT THAT
HIS SUPERIORS PRESSING HIM FOR INFO. WE ALSO KNOW HE WAS
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY DISTURBED. OBRUOUSLY GOL INTERESTED IN KNOWING
AS MUCH ABOUT BACKGROUND OF INCIDENT AS POSSIBLE. CAPTAIN SAADI
COULD WELL ASSUME (A) THAT SOURCE WAS SOMEONE CLOSE TO
PRESIDENT'S ENTOURAGE AND (B) THAT HE HAD TO BE RELIABLE
CONTACT TO BE CREDIBLE TO USG AUTHORITIES.

2. OUR CONCERN INTER ALIA IS UNPLICATIONS OF ABOVE TO DEA
OPERATIONS HERE. SAADI MADE CLEAR TO MARIA HE COULD NOT BELIEVE
DEA NOT FULLY INFORMED RE ORIGIN REPORT AND IMPLIED DEA SOURCE.

3. HOW TO DISINVOLVE DEA IN SAADI'S AND THEREFORE GOL'S EYES
IS NOT REPEAT NOT EASY. IF, AS WE ASSUME WILL BE THE CASE, WE
INFORM SAADI WE CANNOT REVEAL SOURCE. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST, UNLESS
THERE ARE OTHER EQUALLY COMPELLING IMPERATIVES, THAT WE ASSURE
HIM AT THE SAME TIME THAT NEITHER DEA BEIRUT OR DEA WASHINGTON
SOURCE OF INFO. MARIA BELIEVES THAT IF HE TELLS SAADI THAT
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NEITHER HE (MARIA) NOR DEA WASHINGTON WERE SOURCE OF INFO, SAAADI

WILL CONCLUDE THAT SOURCE WAS LEBANESE OF HIGH ENOUGH RANK THAT TO REVEAL HIM WOULD BE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO ALL CONCERNED.

4. WHATEVER COURSE DEPARTMENT DECIDES TO TAKE, WE MUST HAVE RESPONSE BY NOVEMBER 25.

5. PLEASE PASS APPROPRIATE CONTACT DEA WASHINGTON. HOUGHTON.

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